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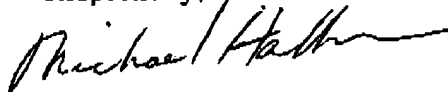
RE: Entity Status Correction
U. S. Patent No: 6884431
Serial No.: 09/708,276; Issued: April 26, 2005

Dear Sir:

Please accept this assertion of small entity status for the referenced patent. This patent is not licensed or otherwise obligated to a large entity and is therefore entitled to the benefits of small entity status under 37 CFR1.27.

The Regents of the University of Michigan are the assignee of these patent rights and I am duly authorized to act on their behalf in this matter.

Respectfully,



Michael Hallman
Patent Administrator

/mh